

For release

From the Birmingham Black Barons
of Negro American League

Those brilliant Birmingham Black Barons, prides of Negro baseball, will be on view here _____ against the _____ in a _____ at _____, starting at _____ o'clock.

If any team is going to keep the Birmingham Black Barons from their third successive Negro American League championship, it's going to have to be an aggregation the likes of which the circuit hasn't seen in many years.

That's how powerful Manager Winfield Welch's Barons shape up for this titular campaign. Except for Tommy Sampson, the lineup is the same as that which carried off both halves of the pennant race last season and won the 1943 crown before that. Only this year's team is stronger in reserves.

There's no doubt but that the brilliant Sampson, now on loan as manager to the St. Louis Stars as a result of his leg injury suffered in the auto crash on the eve of last year's world series, will be missed, but even his second base position seems to be in good hands with J. B. Spencer, bought from the New York Cubans, and Willie Riley, a talented newcomer, fighting it out for the berth.

With Felix McLaurin, fleet center-fielder, flanked in the veteran outfield by Lester Lockett in left and Ed Steele in right and Freddie Shepard from Atlanta providing able replacement, this department is brilliant.

Three of the league's best -- Lorenzo ("Piper") Davis at first, Art Wilson at shortstop and Johnny Britton at third -- man the

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other infield spots. Herman Bell, discharged from the army, has added strength to the catching department, which also has Pepper Bassett and two of the pitching stars who "double" in battery work -- Ted Radcliffe and Johnny Huber.

It's been many years since any Negro league club has boasted the pitching quantity and quality the Barons possess this year. Nine capable starting hurlers are available. Besides Radcliffe and Huber, there are Al Sayler, Al Gipson, Johnny Markham, Schooboy Newberry, Chip McAllister, Earl Bumpus and Alonzo Boone on hand. Bumpus, acquired late last season from the Kansas City Monarchs, in a trade for Outfielder Johnny Scott, gives the Barons something they haven't had in a long while, a capable southpaw.

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BIRMINGHAM BLACK BARONS

1943 and 1944 Negro American League Champions

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Posi- tion</u>	<u>Number</u> (Supplied later)	<u>Years</u> with <u>Barons</u>	<u>Home City</u>	<u>Previous Affiliation</u>
Felix McLauren)	cf		4	Jacksonville, Fla.	Jacksonville Red Caps
or)					
Tom Parker)	cf		1	Alexandria, La.	New York Black Yankees (Industrial)
Art Wilson	ss		2	Birmingham, Ala.	Acipco Company, Birm.
John Britton	3b		2	Miami, Fla.	Cincinnati Clowns
Lorenzo Davis	1b		3	Piper, Ala.	Acipco Company, Birm.
Ed Steele	rf		4	Birmingham, Ala.	Acipco Company, Birm. (Industrial)
Lester Lockett	lf		5	Chicago, Ill.	Chicago American Giants
Ted Radcliffe)	c		4	Chicago, Ill.	Memphis Red Sox
or)					Chicago American Giants
Lloyd "Pepper")	c		2	Galveston, Tex.	Wash. Homestead Grays
Bassett)					Pittsburgh Crawfords
					Cincinnati Clowns
Jack Riley	2b		1	Birmingham, Ala.	Pensacola (Fla) Pepsi Colas

UTILITY MEN

Leandy Young	of		2	Dallas, Texas.	Kansas City Monarchs
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PITCHERS

Alfred Saylor	rhp		5	Cleveland, Ohio	Cincinnati Buckeyes
Alvin Gipson	rhp		5	Shreveport, La.	Cincinnati Buckeyes
Jimmy Newberry	rhp		4	Birmingham, Ala.	L & N Stars, Birm.
John Huber	rhp		3	Chicago, Ill.	Nashville Elite Giants
Lafayette Washington	rhp		2	Chicago, Ill.	St. Louis Stars
John Markham	rhp		5	Glendale, Calif.	Kansas City Monarchs
Earl Bumpus	lhp		2	Uniontown, Ky.	Kansas City Monarchs
Alonzo Boone	rhp		2	Cleveland, Ohio	Cleveland Buckeyes
Winfield S. Welch - Manager			4	Shreveport, La.	New Orleans Crescent Stars Shreveport Giants Cincinnati Buckeyes